

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Executive Registry

61-846

30 January 1961

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Myer Feldman at the White House -  
27 January 1961**

1. Met with Mr. Myer Feldman at the White House to discuss Agency relations with the Congress. I explained Mr. Dulles' brief discussion with Mr. Lawrence O'Brien who had suggested that we discuss it with Mr. Feldman. Mr. Feldman indicated he had not been alerted to this and, in fact, stated Mr. O'Brien had primary responsibility in the field of congressional relations whereas Feldman's responsibility was more in the nature of the substantive content of what was made available to the Congress. However, he said he would be glad to discuss this with me and pass it on to Mr. O'Brien.

2. I furnished him with the lists of our appearances before congressional committees for the two sessions of the 86th Congress. He inquired whether these were in executive session and whether the meetings were a matter of record. I advised that all appearances were in executive session with no release of an edited transcript with the one exception where Mr. Dulles appeared in open session before the Joint Economic Committee in 1959. I also indicated that in 1960 we had, at the request of Mr. Morgan, notified him when we appeared before congressional committees. I also explained to Mr. Feldman very briefly the four subcommittees which have been established for CIA, indicating that we briefed them on Agency operations, activities and budget in the fullest degree that the subcommittees themselves wished. On the other hand, all other appearances were in the nature of

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intelligence briefings and did not deal with Agency activities. Mr. Feldman queried whether we appeared in response to official request or whether we took the initiative. I advised that in all cases it was at the request of the committee chairman and generally on an informal basis. On the other hand, we had on occasion urged our subcommittees to hold meetings for briefing purposes.

3. Mr. Feldman raised the question of the Joint Committee for Foreign Intelligence and asked our position. I mentioned the NSC action in 1956 and the recent review last fall which apparently he had seen. As to our position, I indicated we took no official or public stand but we were satisfied with the existing subcommittee system. I mentioned possible problems of a staff serving a Joint Committee. I also indicated there were arguments pro and con on this but probably the advantages would be outweighed by the disadvantages.

4. Mr. Feldman stated he would discuss this with Mr. O'Brien and in the absence of any word to the contrary he saw no reason not to continue our general pattern as in the past. Also, he saw no necessity of advising the White House on Agency appearances before congressional committees.

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JOHN S. WARNER  
Legislative Counsel

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
IG  
DD/S

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